

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-21 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 5, 11, 14, 15, and 21 are amended to clarify the subject matter recited therein and/or to correct typographic errors. No new matter is added by these amendments.

Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner continues to acknowledge that claims 5-9 and 15-19 include allowable subject matter.

Claims 1-4, 10-14, 20, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,163,488 to Tanizaka et al. (hereinafter Tanizaka). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 1 relates to a redundancy control circuit that includes a plurality of program elements, in which a defect address indicating a position of a defect is programmed by a dielectric breakdown due to applying of a voltage and a voltage control section which applies the voltage to part of a plurality of targeted program elements simultaneously. In claim 1, the plurality of targeted program elements is part of the plurality of program elements to be dielectrically broken down correspondingly to the defect address.

According to amended claim 1, the voltage control section includes ***a timing setting section which outputs a timing signal indicating a timing for carrying out a dielectric breakdown of each of the plurality of program elements based on a trigger signal.***

The Office Action admits that the cited references do not disclose a timing setting section as recited in unamended claims 5 and 15, (Office Action; page 3, section 5) now incorporated in amended claims 1 and 11. Therefore, claims 1 and 11 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1 is allowable.

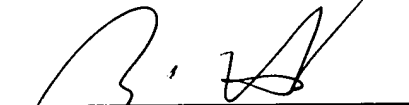
Claims 12-14 depend from claim 11 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 11 is allowable.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that claims 1-21 are in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully solicited. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper, not fully covered by an enclosed check, may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Brian E. Hennessey  
Reg. No. 51,271

**CUSTOMER NO.: 026304**

Phone No.: (212) 940-6311

Fax No.: (212) 940-8986/7

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: NEKU 21.077

BEH:pm